

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 MC-02

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R 171210Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2387

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2972

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TZ

SUBJECT: US JET AIRCRAFT FOR TANZANIA

REF: (A) STATE 202339, (B) DAR ES SALAAM 406;

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD NOTHING EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ON SUBJECT OF TANGOV INTEREST IN PURCHASING US JET COMBAT AIRCRAFT. TANZANIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS HAVE IN PAST EXPLORED POSSIBILITIES ACQUIRING VARIOUS WEST EUROPEAN TYPE JET AIRCRAFT, BUT ENDED UP OBTAINING SOVIET OR CHINESE GOODS. DECISION PROBABLY AS MUCH POLITICAL AS ECONOMIC. WE UNDERSTAND PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF MIN DEFENSE, AUGUSTINE MWINGIRA, RECENTLY TOURED DEFENSE INDUSTRIES IN YUGOSLAVIA, UK AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. UK COMMERCIAL OFFICER TOLD US THAT MWINGIRA'S PRIME INTEREST WAS JET COMBAT AIRCRAFT. IT POSSIBLE THAT MIN DEFENSE AND TANZANIAN AIR FORCE OFFICIALS ALSO INTERESTED IN US AIRCRAFT FOR COMPARISON.

2. ONLY FEELER TO US COMPANIES WHICH WE AWARE OCCURRED LAST AUGUST WHEN LOCKHEED REP RESPONDED TO TANZANIAN AIR FORCE INQUIRY ABOUT PURCHASING THREE C-130'S. LOCKHEED REP WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT TANZANIANS COULD OBTAIN FINANCES OR WOULD FOLLOW UP. DAR A-145 OF 1975 MENTIONED REPORTED TANGOV DESIRE FOR "VIGGENS" WHICH WAS REJECTED BY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT.

3. GIVEN CURRENT AND NEAR TERM FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS, TANGOV WOULD BE HARD PRESSED MAKE PURCHASE FROM ANY SOURCE ON SCALE
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MENTIONED REF A. TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR MIN

DEFENSE IN FY 77 IS \$46.4 MILLION, MUCH OF WHICH APPARENTLY
ALREADY COMMITTED. (SEE REF B AND 75 DAR 4726.) ADVERSE
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION AND HIGH DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN
DONORS FOR CAPITAL FINANCING LEAVE LITTLE MARGIN IN FOREIGN
EXCHANGE EXPENDITURES.

4. WHILE DOUBTFUL RE POTENTIAL FOR SALES OF US JETS, EMBASSY
WOULD NOT OBJECT TO US COMPANIES EXPLORING POSSIBLE LEADS ON
UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY SALE WOULD REQUIRE HIGH LEVEL USG DECISION.

SPAIN

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